

Biographies of speakers

Marc Tkach



Marc Tkach is a Director of Infrastructure and Integrated Program Management at the Millennium Challenge Corporation. In his infrastructure role he is responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of water focused grant programs in MCC's partner countries. Most recently, these include urban water capital and institutional reform investments in Zambia and Tanzania. As technical director of IPM, Marc advises and leads workshops to address implementation and sustainability challenges for the global portfolio.

Marc is a licensed civil engineer in the United States. His first masters in hydrogeology and groundwater management is from the University of Southern California. He recently completed a second multi-disciplinary masters in 2020 in sustainability leadership from the University of Cambridge, UK. His research targeted how practitioners make sense of sustainability during infrastructure planning.

Koen Verbist



Dr. Koen Verbist is a Programme Specialist working at the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, where he is responsible for the implementation of the Water Sciences Programme (IHP), as well as the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) for Southern Africa, to support and implement interdisciplinary and intersectoral projects in the field of Natural Sciences.

Particularly in Southern Africa, he has been supporting the implementation of flood and drought risk management strategies and to address climate change impacts on water security. He has led the development of the Drought Atlas and the setup of Flood and Drought Monitoring systems for countries in the region. More recently, he has supported the development of a novel approach to address climate change impacts on water resources and to identify appropriate adaptation pathways.

He obtained his PhD in 2011 at Ghent University, Belgium, targeting the improvement of water harvesting systems in drylands and has co-authored several UNESCO publications on these topics, as well as over 25 scientific papers in international journals.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Hydrological
Programme



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



International Center for Integrated
Water Resources Management
under the auspices of UNESCO

Ad Jeuken



Ad Jeuken is a climate change adaptation expert at Deltares since 2008 holding a PhD in climate modeling (KNMI and technical university Eindhoven) and a professional background in water management. Now 12 years with Deltares he has developed as an international expert on climate change adaptation and has worked for international organizations like the European commission, ADB, GCF, WB, FAO and UNFCCC and for governments worldwide on climate change risk analysis, adaptation planning, training and capacity building. He is an author of the Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis guide for water resources management as well as many other publications in the field of water, DRR and climate.